



The Regional Center for Social Science  
and Sustainable Development  
Chiang Mai University

# THE MYANMAR CRISIS SEEN FROM THE BORDERS

15 DEC 2021 6:30 - 8:30 PM THAILAND TIME

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*Sciences Po - CERJ*

**NAI KASAUH MON**  
*Human Rights Foundation of Monland*

**KHIN OHMAR**  
*Founder and Chair of Progressive Voice*

**FRANCOIS ROBINNE**  
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**SALLY THOMPSON**  
*The Border Consortium*

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*UNHCR representative for Thailand*



# The Myanmar Crisis seen from the Borders

A WEBINAR COORGANIZED BY THE RCSD AND IRASEC

15th December 2021, 6.30 to 8.30 PM (Bangkok Time)

While the crisis is still raging in Myanmar, borders areas are under high migration and health pressure among others. Since the coup, thousands of people, fleeing violence of the Tatmadaw, try to make their way to borders, finding themselves in a very vulnerable situation -if not under fire again- hoping to get into a refugee camp or in any safer area in neighboring countries. In turn, the influx is a burden for the latter. Adding again to the complexity of the situation in a context of notorious underdevelopment, borders areas have already known over decades regular waves of migrants, the overall move leading to a humanitarian crisis.

What about the humanitarian condition and how is life for inhabitants, displaced people and refugees there today? Can humanitarian support effectively reach border areas? Is the most recent influx (since the coup) reconfiguring political and ethnic environment? Can International Relation —including from neighboring countries— play a role and pressure on Myanmar junta on a short to long-term perspective for improvement of the situation and easing of migration, if not for a way out of the crisis?

The 6 following specialists will discuss the various issues:

(Moderator) **David Camroux** is Honorary Senior Research Fellow within the Centre de Recherches Internationales (CERI). At Sciences Po he is also an Adjunct Professor at the Institut d'Études Politiques (IEP) in Paris where he teaches classes on contemporary Southeast Asian politics and society, Europe-Asia relations and Asian regional integration. Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic he was a Professorial Fellow at the Vietnam National University (USSH), in Hanoi. He is the co-editor of The Journal of Current Southeast Asian Affairs and is a regular commentator on Southeast Asian and Pacific affairs for French media.

**Nai Kasauh Mon** is a native of Mon State, southern part of Burma. While he was a university student in 1988, he actively involved in pro-democracy uprising and took refuge in Thai-Burma border after the military coup. He worked in a Mon relief organization, Mon Relief and Development Committee, for a decade. In 1995, he founded Human Rights Foundation of Monland (HURFOM) and started documentation of human rights violations in southern Burma, especially on use of forced labour and land confiscation. When Burma was opened up around 2014, he mainly advocated for political, social, economic rights of ethnic people in a federated union of Burma. After 2021 coup, HURFOM started to document again human rights violations by the military regime against pro-democracy activists.

**Khin Ohmar** began her human rights work as a student activist, organizing a nationwide democracy uprising in 1988. She is a founding member of Women's League of Burma (WLB), Forum for Democracy in Burma and Burma Partnership and served as coordinator of WLB's Women Peacebuilding Program, of National Reconciliation Program and of Burma Partnership. Drawing from her own experience with activism and trauma at individual and community level, in 2012, she co-authored "Trauma and Recovery on War's Borders: A Guide for Global Health Workers", a guide for mental health workers in regions traumatized by war, human rights violations, and poverty across the globe. As the founder and chairperson of the Advisory Board of Progressive Voice, a Myanmar human rights research and advocacy organization, she has been a lead advocate internationally for democracy, human rights, justice and accountability in Myanmar.

**François Robinne** holds a Ph.D. (1985) in Social Anthropology (EHESS Paris). A former Director of IRASEC in Bangkok, he is a member of the Institute on Asian Studies (IrASIA, Aix-Marseille University/CNRS). From the highlands of Burma to the enclaves of Bangkok, his research explores social crossroads to question what consistency in heterogeneous landscapes. His most recent publications are *Birmanie: Par-delà l'ethnicité* (Burma: Beyond Ethnicity, Editions Dépayage, 2021) with a preface by Michel Agier, and « Urban Enclaves: New Forms of Precarity for Exiled Workers in Bangkok » (T. Waters, A. South, C. Vaddhanaphuti & L. Corbin eds. *Moving Around Myanmar. Migration in, from and back to Burma*, RCSD, 2021).

**Sally Thompson**, MBE, has over twenty-five years' experience working with The Border Consortium (TBC) coordinating and delivering humanitarian assistance to refugees and conflict-affected people in south eastern Myanmar. She is currently the Executive Director of TBC, with field offices in Thailand and south eastern Myanmar working with and through local partners to address food security, nutrition, shelter, and protection concerns of people fleeing from fighting and to support rights-based approaches to peace and development. Sally was awarded an MBE (Member of British Empire) in 2010 for community services to Burmese refugees in Thailand.

**Giuseppe de Vincentiis** has assumed his functions of UNHCR Representative for Thailand in November 2018. With the establishment of the Multi Country Office, as of 1 January 2020 he is also designated UNHCR non-resident Representative for Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam. Prior to his arrival to Thailand he served as UNHCR Representative in Myanmar since August 2014. He has 30 years of experience with the UN, most of them with UNHCR. He has served as UNHCR Regional Representative for China and Mongolia, Deputy Regional Representative in Thailand, Senior External Relations/Inter-Agency Officer in UNHCR Headquarters in Geneva, Head of Liaison Officer in Hanoi, Viet Nam, Head of UNHCR Sub-Office in HCMCity, Vietnam, External Relations Officer in Headquarters, Associate Protection Officer in Cambodia and Assistant Programme Officer in Iran.

From 2000 to 2004 Mr. de Vincentiis was on secondment to UNDP as Director of the UNDP Liaison Office in Rome, Italy. He is a lawyer by background and completed his education, Faculty of Law at University of Naples, Italy.